

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Wildlife Conservation  
December 2003

# Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

## Performance Reports

Progress reports, and some final reports, involve continuing research. Data may be refined at a later date.

If using information from this report, please credit author(s) and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**FEDERAL AID  
FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
PO Box 25526  
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

**Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund  
SAFE HARBORS GRANT**

**STATE:** Alaska

**GRANT AND SEGMENT NR.:** E-7-SH

**PROJECT NR.:** 1.0

**WORK LOCATION:** Primarily Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta

**PROJECT DURATION:** 1 April 2002 – 30 June 2003

**PROJECT REPORTING PERIOD:** 1 April 2002 – 30 June 2003

**PROJECT TITLE:** Reducing Exposure of Spectacled and Steller's Eiders to Lead Shot Through Education and Training of Hunters on Private Lands

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**Project Objectives:**

1. Reduce exposure of spectacled and Steller's eiders to lead shot on private lands.
2. Increase the use of nontoxic shot by hunters in eider habitats.
3. Promote the availability of nontoxic shot ammunition in communities in and near eider habitats.

**Summary of Project Accomplishments:**

- 1-3. From 1 April 2002 through 30 June 2003 we conducted 37 clinics and reached 716 hunters. Two clinics were conducted in Wainwright, and Pt. Lay, (spectacled and Steller's eiders breeding habitat). Two clinics were conducted in Newtok and Chefnak (breeding habitat for spectacled and Steller's eiders). Two clinics were conducted in Chignik Lagoon and King Salmon (Stellar's eider migration and wintering habitat) and one clinic in Selawik (spectacled eider post breeding habitat). By supplying non-toxic ammunition, encouraging the use and demonstrating the lethality of steel shot on waterfowl through the use of hands-on and audio-visual strategies we are able to reduce exposure of spectacled and Steller's eiders and increase the use of non toxic shot. By inviting storeowners and village leaders to these clinics we are able to encourage them to increase the availability of steel shot to local hunters.

**Project Costs:** Federal share \$30,029 + state share \$9,809 = total cost \$ 39,838

**Prepared By:** Lee Rogers, Project Coordinator

**Date:** September 4, 2003

**FEDERAL AID  
INTERIM PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
PO Box 25526  
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

**COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND**

**STATE:** Alaska

**GRANT AND SEGMENT NR.:** E – 2 – 1

**PROJECT NR.:** 2

**GRANT TITLE:** Nongame Bird Monitoring

**WORK LOCATION:** Cook Inlet

**PROJECT DURATION:** 1 January 2003 – 30 June 2004

**PROJECT REPORTING PERIOD:** 1 January 2003 – 30 December 2003

**PROJECT TITLE:** Population Status and Distribution of Steller 's eider

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**Project Objectives:**

The general objective of this study is to improve our knowledge of the status, distribution, and population trend for Steller's eiders wintering in lower Cook Inlet by:

1. improving knowledge of habitat use and distribution within wintering areas;
2. improving survey methodology and population estimates;
3. documenting age and sex structure of winter flocks;
4. identifying fidelity to wintering sites;
5. identifying arrival and departure dates for wintering Steller's eiders; and
6. exploring capture and marking opportunities for future research.

**Summary of Project Accomplishments:**

1. Completed 2 aerial surveys along the eastern shore of lower Cook Inlet from Kachemak Bay to Cape Kasilof and 1 along the western shore of lower Cook Inlet from Tuxedni Bay to Cape Douglas. Conducted boat surveys in Kachemak Bay and in lower Cook Inlet from the Homer Spit to Clam Gulch. We planned to conduct additional repetitions but could not due to poor weather.
2. We were able to conduct a repeat aerial survey along the east side of lower Cook Inlet and followed with a boat survey. Weather (see above) prevented us from our original objective of 3 repeat aerial surveys of the same transects.
3. We conducted boat surveys to test feasibility of documenting age and sex structure from skiffs and videographed large flocks to determine sex ratios. We could not get age ratios from video.

4. This will require multiple years of surveys and/or telemetry. We will also compare our locations with what is known from any previous surveys. This has not been completed.
5. We narrowed departure dates in 2003 to a 2-week window between March 26 and April 11. We did not fly surveys in the fall to get arrival dates but have estimates from anecdotal observations and local knowledge.
6. From aerial and boat surveys we were able to assess the feasibility of capturing eiders in lower Cook Inlet.

Some portions of this project will not be completed because during the course of this project, which was being assisted by USFWS, the USFWS received funding from the Mineral Management Service to conduct a similar, but more comprehensive monitoring program. Completion has been delayed due to unforeseen events with our partners, Cook Inlet Keeper, in completing the matching GIS component of this project. More time will allow them to complete this task.

**Project Costs:** Federal share \$ 21,693 + match share \$ 1,529 = total cost \$ 23,222  
(Costs show funds committed. Match portion will increase with activity by 3<sup>rd</sup> party on project in the coming spring.)

**Prepared By:** Dan Rosenberg, WB III

**Date:** December 16, 2003

**FEDERAL AID  
INTERIM PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
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PO Box 25526  
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**COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND**

**STATE:** Alaska

**GRANT AND SEGMENT NR.:** E - 2 - 1

**PROJECT NR.:** 1

**GRANT TITLE:** Nongame Bird Monitoring

**WORK LOCATION:** Southeastern Alaska

**PROJECT DURATION:** 25 September, 2002 – 30 June, 2004

**PROJECT REPORTING PERIOD:** 1 July 2002–30 June 2003

**PROJECT TITLE:** Analysis of Queen Charlotte goshawk radiotelemetry and prey-habitat data in conjunction with the USDA Forest Service

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**Project Objectives:**

The following components will be analyzed and developed into reports or manuscripts as an objective of this study:

- a) Coordinate, fund, and work with the Forest Service who will perform the spatial habitat analyses of the 1991-1999 radiotelemetry data.
- b) Perform home range analyses by sex, age, and location on the Tongass given varying prey occurrence.
- c) Perform resource selection modeling and habitat analyses based on GIS outputs as provided by the Forest Service.
- d) Perform exploratory analysis of passerine bird dataset that was previously collected by the Forest Service.

**Summary of Project Accomplishments**

Accomplishment of the objectives has been delayed because U.S. Forest Service staff members have not completed the spatial habitat analyses in objective a) upon which all other objectives depend. We expect the Forest Service will provide this data with a few weeks and we will be able to proceed with the rest of the project.

**Project Costs:** Federal share \$35,357 + state share \$11,038 = total cost \$ 46,395

**Prepared By:** Craig Flatten, WBI

**Date:** 12 December 2003

**FEDERAL AID  
INTERIM PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
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PO Box 25526  
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**COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND**

**STATE:** Alaska

**GRANT AND SEGMENT NR.:** E-6-CC

**PROJECT NR.:** 1.0

**WORK LOCATION:** Fairbanks

**PROJECT DURATION:** 1 January 2002 – 31 December 2003

**PROJECT REPORTING PERIOD:** 1 January 2002 – 31 December 2002

**PROJECT TITLE:** Distribution and Abundance of Neotropical Migratory Landbirds in Interior Alaska Forests

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**Project Objectives:**

OBJECTIVE 1: Initiate studies to determine the abundance of landbirds in each of the habitats found within the Tanana Valley forest.

OBJECTIVE 2: Initiate studies to determine specific habitats and habitat characteristics selected by landbird species during the early summer nesting season in the Northwest Interior Forest BCR, particularly Alaska "Species of Special Concern" and Boreal Partners in Flight "Priority Species for Conservation."

**Summary of Project Accomplishments:**

From 5-28 June 2002, 423 points were surveyed for birds following the Off-road Point Count protocol using variable circular plots. Points were randomly located in 3 white spruce sites with differing historical and anticipated future logging; and in aspen forest managed to enhance ruffed grouse habitat and unmanipulated aspen forest. Detailed vegetation and habitat data were collected at each survey point. A second field season is scheduled for June 2003.

**Interim Project Costs:** Federal share \$36,951 + state share \$28,660 = total \$ 65,611

**Prepared By:** John Wright, Wildlife Biologist III

**Date:** April 10, 2003

